

HOUSE RESOLUTION 161

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Dr.
Deborah B. Smith on being named one of the 12
Most Outstanding Women in Ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Reverend Dr. Deborah B. Smith, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the MID Fellowship requested nominations of Memphis and Shelby County women who are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and, subsequently, selected twelve outstanding women; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Smith is an ordained Elder, and she served as pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church from June 2011 until her departure in June 2017; and

WHEREAS, prior to her appointment as pastor, Dr. Smith served at Germantown United Methodist Church as Minister of Outreach and Missions and as Youth Coordinator at Bethany United Methodist Church in the New Orleans District of the Louisiana Conference, the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, having served in many positions throughout the years, Dr. Smith currently serves with distinction as the Metro District Superintendent in Shelby, Fayette, and Tipton counties; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith has also served as Memphis Conference Chair, Commission of Equitable Compensation, the Memphis Conference Board for Ordained Ministry, and the Advisory Council for Project Transformation; she recently completed her tenure as Memphis Conference Chair of the Outreach Advocacy Action Team; and

WHEREAS, an active supporter of community initiatives, Dr. Smith serves on the Executive Clergy Committee for the Memphis Christian Pastors Network and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Methodist Healthcare Foundation; and

WHEREAS, she was recently elected by the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of Memphis Theological Seminary; Dr. Smith began her tenure as Trustee for Rust College in Mississippi in November 2017; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Smith was bestowed the first Susanna Wesley Award of Excellence from the Centenary United Methodist Men in December 2014, which award recognized her for her nurturing motherhood, faith, perseverance, intelligence, compassion, and devotion; recently, Dr. Smith was featured in *The Called: How Can They Hear Without a Preacher?*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith earned her Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, a Master of Education degree with a concentration in curriculum and instruction and reading specialist certification from the University of New Orleans, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Curriculum Theory from Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, she is most grateful for the love and support of her husband, Eddie, Jr.; their three adult children, Kasia Smith-Alexander (Ernest), Kimberly Smith Rodriguez, and Eddie Smith III; and their three cherished grandsons; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Dr. Smith be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Reverend Dr. Deborah B. Smith on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry of 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.